

Sanje
SEDERA

FOR NEVADA ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 34

06-05-2014

Mr. Jeff Jordan

Assistant General Counsel

Federal Election Commission

Office of Complaints Examination and Legal Administration

999 E. Street, NW , Washington DC 20436

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COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

RE: MUR 6826

I am writing this explanation below in response to the MUR 6826 on behalf of my campaign as the candidate and response on behalf of the treasurer.

(1) At the time the fundraiser was held on May 03, 2014, Malraj de Silva was not the Sri Lankan Consul General for the eight western states of the United States. He was only designated to that position.

(2) When the fundraiser was held at the residence of Malraj de Silva, he was a citizen of the United States.

(3) The news item cited by the petitioner that appeared in the Online Daily English newspaper ASIAN TRIBUNE referred to Malraj de Silva as Sri Lanka's Consul General. This was a blatant error by the correspondent of ASIAN TRIBUNE Daya Gamage.

(4) I had no authority over the ASIAN TRIBUNE US National Correspondent Daya Gamage as it was an independent report written by him and he alone is responsible for the news report which described Malraj de Silva as Sri Lanka's Consul General which is a factual error. I absolutely had no input to this ASIAN TRIBUNE news report.

(5) I carefully read the said ASIAN TRIBUNE news report but in no place I saw that it stated the Government of Sri Lanka was to send military personnel to participate in my campaign for the District 34 Democratic Primary Election for the Nevada State Assembly. It stated that former students of Sri Lanka's Ananda College, to which I belonged, some of whom are former military personnel of Sri Lankan Army - all of them US Citizens - expressed willingness to come to Las Vegas, Nevada to campaign on my behalf.

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(6) All the monetary contributors at the residence of Mr. Malraj de Silva were UN Citizens.

(7) The petitioner, drawing from the ASIAN TRIBUNE news report, casts doubts about my allegiance to the United States and to the electors of my Assembly District 34 in the State of Nevada should I get elected. The ICE, the US State Department and the Department of Homeland Security are aware that any naturalized citizen has divided loyalty - to the adopted country and the country of birth.

When the petitioner referred to my being the 'voice' for Sri Lanka, the position I intended to take if elected to the Nevada State Legislature is that to be another voice - possibly an effective one - to help lessen the misunderstanding Sri Lanka and the United States developed after the conclusion of the military defeat of terrorist Tamil Tiger movement in May 2009. It is nothing but to improve the bilateral relations between the two nations and be another 'voice' toward that.

The news report in the ASIAN TRIBUNE did not make a better explanation as to what I, and many others who attended the California fundraiser, referred to being a 'voice'.

The bilateral relations between the United States and Sri Lanka deteriorated due to the latter's failure to take positive and far-reaching steps after the Tamil Tiger movement was defeated in May 2009 to bring a national reconciliation process between the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamil, the latter who were drawn toward the terrorist Tamil Tigers to bifurcate the country to establish a separate independent nation for the Tamils, and the Government of Sri Lanka's failure - in the opinion of the US State Department - to improve the human rights conditions and investigate alleged war crimes during the 26-year war.

My advocacy was to incorporate the Sri Lankan Americans into my Primary Campaign to strengthen the unity to become a 'single voice' to attempt to be of assistance to improve the bilateral relationship between the United States and Sri Lanka starting from the Nevada State Legislature to the Governor's office and (beyond) to the lawmakers and policymakers in Washington. This theme 'to be a voice' helped me to bring many Sri Lankan Americans and other well wishers who are non Sri Lankans but American citizens to rally behind my primary campaign.

All those who participated at the Mr. Malraj de Silva's fundraiser event were those Sri Lankan Americans.

Thank you.



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